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ASH GROVE CEMENT COMPANY

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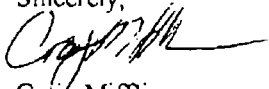
Ed Hatcher
Northwest Alloys Inc.
P.O. Box 115
1560A Marble Valley Rd.
Addy, WA 99101

August 24, 2000

Dear Ed:

Thank you for sending me the most recent information. I apologize for not responding to you sooner. We are still interested in using the Dical as a raw material source for our Seattle plant. The test we performed went very smoothly and we are confident we can incorporate the Dical into our process. As we have previously discussed, we would have to invest some capital in order to unload and transfer the material into our process. This we are prepared to do if an agreement can be reached. This brings me to the main point of this correspondence. We have skirted around the cost issue and never really determined anything concrete. In order for us to proceed any further, we need to know exactly what the costs will be. We have a pretty good idea what the capital expenditures and the rail freight will be and so all that remains is the price of the material itself. As soon as this information is provided, we can proceed. Thanks again for all your help and patience with this project.

Sincerely,



Craig Mifflin
Office: 206 694-6216
Fax: 206 623-5355

USEPA SF



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